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**P.L.M.  
Election Manifesto  
1970-71**

## Preface

*Antiguans in Britain are anxiously awaiting it. Antiguans in the Virgin Islands want it. Antiguans in the United States are impatient about it. In fact, Antiguans overseas are watching and waiting with bated breath. Here at home, Antiguans are daily praying for it.*

*Now the time has come. The General Election gives us the opportunity, the glorious opportunity, of achieving it. We must gird our loins to withstand the vicious counter-attack of a government that after twenty-five years in power, is in its final death-throes. We must SWEEP OUT the INEFFICIENCY, the CORRUPTION, the DISHONESTY and VICE that have become permanently associated with the holding of Public Office.*

*Out of the ruins, the degradation and hardship that the mal-spending of Public Funds has created, a fresh clean Antigua must arise. We must restore and rebuild our native land. We must make its name, a name of which we can all be proud. Most of all we must restore Antigua to Antiguans, so that the cream of our youth and manhood will not flee their birthplace like the plague. Our youth should be able to face the future with confidence instead of despair. All our citizens should have first priorities in regard to job opportunity and housing and ownership of land and our youths should be able to look forward to taking their rightful place in our community as proud citizens of a progressive country.*

*Antigua needs young, fresh, intelligent, virile and honest leadership. The Progressive Labour Movement offers Antigua and Antiguans this kind of leadership and invites you to abandon despair. The P.L.M. invites Antiguans to work in partnership with us so that we can restore and rebuild our country.*

“AWAY WITH THEM,  
VOTE P.L.M.”

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## THE ANTIGUA LABOUR PARTY HAS FAILED

During the past twenty-five years the world has witnessed unparalleled advance in the knowledge that man has acquired about himself and his environment. The richer nations of the world have been able to secure for their citizens a higher standard of living, more leisure, more economic security, and more intensive and extensive medical care.

The poorer and smaller nations of the world have had the tremendous task of sifting through the enormous mass of information that has been acquired by those nations that can afford to do extensive and intensive research into human problems. They have had to find out for themselves how this mass of knowledge can best be applied to their situation and put to use so that they can benefit from it, improve their economies and give their citizens a fuller life.

In this modern age the small country must not only be able to survive, but also to make progress. Survival and progress demand a huge investment in education and training facilities. It demands proper and detailed economic planning. Planning not only to meet the needs of today but the needs of tomorrow. It demands the courage and will power to put the planning into execution. It demands a scientific approach to the problems that arise in the field of human and industrial relations. It demands that a certain level of scientific skills be attained and maintained so that the technological know-how can be supplied when demanded by industry. It demands that a solid economic infra-structure be securely built and maintained.

In this respect Bird and his Labour Party have FAILED Antigua. Twenty-five years ago their policies might have been sufficient to run a country that had a small population and very few links with the outside world. Today, instead of keeping pace with modern development they have the same emotional approach that they used a quarter of a century ago. Antigua needs a SCIENTIFIC approach to its problems. This the P.L.M. CAN AND WILL PROVIDE.

We cannot look back over the past twenty-five years and see any continuous, cohesive or coherent plan to develop Antigua. The government has not been able to attract the big investors to come here, and the history of the attempt to attract investors is one of a big "give away" surrounded by scandals and charges of corruption. It is a tale of massive concessions accompanied by suppression of local enterprise. It is a tale of failure that has opened the integrity of the government to serious questioning. It is a tale of "small time" overseas operators receiving duty free concessions, tax free concessions, hundreds of acres of land, estate houses, and government protection and patronage.

The non-existence of the Foam Rubber Company, the Pottery, the Cigarette Factory, the Arrowroot Factory, the Paint Factory at Friar's Hill, Pro-lad Paints, the Hydroponic Farm, Antigua Slip-

ways, Cal-Mac Enterprises, Global Risk Insurance Company—especially the latter, calls for serious reflection.

The P.L.M. accuses the government of working without any plan or any thought of the future needs of Antigua. Thus after ten years the Terminal Building at Coolidge Airport proves to be too small. It cannot be enlarged. It was not planned to be enlarged. It will have to be scrapped. Already the Airlines are complaining that the drawing they have been shown for the new Terminal Building offers them inadequate facilities to cope with the problems of modern jet transport.

The New Deep Water Harbour completed only in 1968, cannot in 1970 cope with the load. It can only accommodate two ships at a time and the warehouse is too small. Thus while the concept of a Deep Water Harbour is an excellent one, we believe that the building of one that is too small defeats the purpose.

The government has failed to plan for Antigua's needs. The building of the Refinery at Friar's Hill shows it. Even though the Company had been conceived in 1961, four years later when construction was at its height, there were no Antiguan available to take the cream of the jobs.

Antiguan should have been trained by the government to work on the project. The government had ample time in which to do this. They did nothing. They were indifferent. As a result, over \$5,000,000 (five million dollars) went out to expatriate workers who came here to do welding and other jobs.

The P.L.M. believes that the first duty of a government is towards its citizens and deplors the lack of planning that caused an industry to be created in which the Nationals of other countries reaped the benefits.

Antiguan did the unskilled jobs. Even today, ten years later, Antiguan are not involved in the welding programme for the Refinery expansion. The government has failed in its duty to Antigua.

## ELECTRICITY

The P.L.M. accuses the present government of lack of foresight and planning. Antigua is still paying for the Electricity Plant at Cassada Gardens erected twelve years ago. At the same time we now have to pay for the new \$5,000,000 (five million dollars) Hawker-Siddeley Plant that was scrapped at Friar's Hill after being in operation for barely two years. The government has just dismissed Melley-Motors after paying them nearly \$2,000,000 (two million dollars) to supply electricity, and it is now involved with another Company in building a new electricity plant at Crabbs Peninsula (Top Base). The government has failed to plan for Antigua. It has squandered our money and St. John's is still the most poorly lighted city in the West Indies. In a period of twelve years, government has spent over \$15,000,000 (fifteen million dollars) on Electricity and the service is still hopelessly inadequate.

## TELEPHONES

We are still paying for the old "lift and call" telephone system, and now in 1970 after spending \$2,500,000 (two and one half million dollars) the government has given Antigua an incomplete telephone system. The government has failed to plan and take into account the needs of the entire island, for in a population of over 70,000 (seventy thousand) it has provided only 1,900 (nineteen hundred) telephones.

The P.L.M. regards the telephone as a necessity, and not a luxury and feels that every area of the island should be connected to the system. In addition to this, the telephone rates in Antigua are the highest in the West Indies.

The government has given no indication of whether there will be a phased expansion of the system, and this Party is convinced that the addition of new lines will involve further major expenditure.

The government has failed to plan for Antigua.

## ROADS

The failure of Bird and his Labour Party is obvious to any visitor to the island. For the past fifteen years, motorists and pedestrians alike have had to put up with roads that in a tourist oriented economy, have become internationally infamous for their pot-holes and run-down condition. Government seemed to have given up trying to improve on the conditions of the roads fifteen years ago. Motor cars can barely last for two years in Antigua, while in some countries the life span of a motor-vehicle is at least ten years.

## UNEMPLOYMENT

Despite the Premier's boast that no unemployment exists in Antigua, every honest Antiguan knows that it is at an all-time high, and emigration to the U. S. Virgin Islands has been the ever-present safety valve that has kept the acuteness of this problem from causing a violent upheaval in the society. Coupled with unemployment is the steep rise in the cost of living that has been skyrocketing unchecked because of the government's inability to control prices and produce more food locally.

## IMPORTS

Almost everything we use in Antigua is imported. Our exports are practically nil. The P.L.M. realizes that there are items that we must of necessity import, but feels that every effort should be made to keep our imports at a minimum level. The present government has failed to make any effort in this direction. They have failed to boost production. Instead, Antigua has been producing less and less every year and the amount of goods imported has been increasing too rapidly.

The available figures show:—

	1964	1965	1966	1967
Imp.	\$23,054,112	32,421,011	44,000,000	39,094,190
Exp.	\$ 3,677,114	2,467,876	485,726	1,949,191

This reflects an increase in Imports from just over twenty-three million dollars in 1964 to just over thirty-nine million dollars in 1967. Our Exports, instead of increasing have gone down in value. Exports fell from just over three and one half million dollars in 1964 to just under half a million dollars in 1966, and rose again to just under two million dollars in 1967. The increase in the 1967 figures represent an increase in the re-export business, i.e. goods imported and then exported again. From the figures produced by government, the re-exports are double that of real exports (that is, things made or grown in Antigua).

The Labour government has failed. It has NOT helped us to feed ourselves. We have the lands available. We need proper planning and organization and Antigua can produce sufficient meat, poultry and eggs without paying for them from overseas—especially from the dollar areas.

A list of our meat Imports shows:—

	1966	1967
Beef	\$118,000	\$ 100,000
Sheep	31,250	24,000
Pork	32,000	31,500
Poultry	500,000	1,500,000
All other fresh chilled or frozen meats	104,000	250,000
TOTAL	\$785,250	\$1,905,500

A total Import bill of nearly two million dollars for meats alone stands out as a serious charge against the government. If the government owns approximately 115 square miles out of the total 170½ square miles that make up Antigua, Barbuda and Redonda, it is the government's responsibility, as the largest land owner by far, to introduce an Agricultural programme to make use of the land. An annual turnover of nearly two million dollars can support a meat industry here. No such programme exists. The government has again failed. The money continues to go overseas.

## AGRICULTURE

This stands in complete ruin. Sugar is almost dead, to the extent that after recently using 28 tons of cane to make one ton of sugar, the Sugar Factory had no alternative but to close down. The days when Antigua used to produce 1 ton of sugar from 7 tons of cane now belong to history.

Sugar is dying. It is dying from the mismanagement and poor organization that the industry has had to endure since it was taken over by government who used the cane-growers money to do it.

The Bird government has mishandled Sugar Cess Funds. The Sugar Cess Funds must according

to the Law be used towards (a) Labour Welfare (b) Price Stabilization (c) Rehabilitation.

This money is charged at the rate of \$13.20 on every ton of sugar shipped from Antigua. It is supposed to be paid into a Fund from which CANE GROWERS can benefit when in difficulty. Government has used the Sugar Cess Funds to help buy 49% of the shares in the Antigua Sugar Factory in 1965. The blatant use of the cane growers money without saying even one word to the country about it, is indicative of the insensitive manner in which the government has ridden roughshod over everything in its way without paying even lip service to the Law of the land.

The Cotton Cess that rightly belongs to the Cotton Association has never been used for the benefit of the Cotton Industry. Where is the Cotton Cess money?

Cotton is dying. Antigua, once the largest producer of Sea Island Cotton in the world, during the 1950's, can no longer boast of this.

The government has failed. Today the industry has virtually collapsed and the Edible Oil Factory that had been built to use cotton seeds is now using imported copra to produce oil.

Political manipulation in the administration of Agriculture, especially in the Peasant Development Office, has been one of the main causes of the failure of agriculture. Under the present system, "politics" and not "production" seems to be the government's agricultural motto.

#### **WATER**

Less than 1/5th (one fifth) of the total population of the State has pipe borne water in their homes. Even then, the supply of water is far from being constant, and some sections of the capital are still without water twenty-four hours per day.

#### **HOUSING**

Generally, the standard of housing in Antigua leaves much to be desired. After more than 25 years of government by the Antigua Labour Party, it has not yet been able to produce a single Housing Scheme sponsored or encouraged by the government. There has never been a Housing Scheme sponsored by anyone. In this respect the present government has failed to take into account the pressing need for adequate houses that exists in every section of our society.

#### **EDUCATION**

There has been no educational policy of which either the government or Antigua can be proud. The results of the G.C.E. examinations show this clearly. The government has failed to train sufficient teachers to cope with the rising demand for education in our schools. Consequently, our teachers—especially those who are untrained—are burdened with classes many times the size with which one teacher is normally expected to cope.

In addition there is a shortage of text books and equipment, and the curriculum is not designed to produce in the pupils an awareness of their own history, their cultural heritage and the role that they as citizens of an independent emerging country must play.

#### **TOURISM**

The Tourist Industry which had been off to a good start ten years ago now lacks direction and drive, and an indication of its importance is shown by the meagre amount of money \$25,000 (twenty-five thousand dollars) that until this year had been allocated by government to this vital industry annually. The amount currently devoted to Tourism is a meagre \$100,000 (one hundred thousand dollars). In contrast to this, the Barbados government spends approximately \$1,500,000 (one and a half million dollars) while in Jamaica the amount allocated to Tourism is \$8,840,000 (eight million, eight hundred and forty thousand dollars).

The P.L.M. is convinced that government should play a leading role in developing the Tourist Industry as one of the major dollar earners in the State. In this connection, the government has failed to shoulder its responsibility.

The government's training programme in the industry is limited to producing maids and waiters. This shows a lack of foresight, as the P.L.M. firmly believes that training in this industry should also include the training of Antiguan to take their rightful places as chefs, accountants, auditors and managers.

#### **CULTURE**

There has been no plan to promote and improve Antigua's cultural heritage. The government while paying lip service to this aspect of our National life, has taken so little positive action in this field that the action taken is completely ineffective. Here again the Antigua Labour Party has failed Antigua.

#### **NATIONAL PLAN**

There has been no National Plan or philosophy behind the actions of the Labour Party. It is too late now for the Labour Party after twenty five years of guess work to endeavor to produce a plan. It is an admission that they have been "playing it by ear."

The P.L.M. feels strongly that a National Plan must be drawn up NOW. It should aim at reviving AGRICULTURE; at boosting TOURISM; at providing adequate HOUSING, HOSPITAL, HEALTH FACILITIES and SOCIAL SECURITY; at providing our children and ourselves with the opportunity to get a sound and meaningful EDUCATION.

#### **LEADERSHIP**

The primary duty of a government is to look towards the needs of the people. It is its duty

not only to supply their needs, but to plan the economy and exercise the type of leadership that will give the people a fuller life materially, culturally and spiritually.

Our country needs a revival, and many of our leaders have yet to show the kind of example that ought to be shown by holders of high office.

## ITS YOUR COUNTRY WITH P. L. M.

### THE P.L.M. PLAN—WHAT AND HOW!

#### FINANCE

It is generally recognized that, at the present time the economy of Antigua is in a mess. It is like a sieve. There are too many holes in it. It leaks considerably to the detriment of everyone with an interest in Antigua. A little putty here and there will not be enough. The P.L.M. will use a bold and comprehensive approach to remedy the problem.

The P.L.M. believes in the free enterprise system. This Party knows that since the 1930's, independent governments around the world have accepted the major role and responsibility for the promotion of wealth and the avoidance of depression in their various countries. The P.L.M. will accept this role. It will take effective measures to meet the challenge of its responsibility for the well-being of citizens of the State and friends and visitors to our shores.

We state the following simply. We believe it. And therefore it will be a guiding principle in our policy. The fact is that no facet of our economy is unrelated to the other. National income depends on productivity; productivity depends on the skill, education, and health of the population. It depends on the wage incentives too. Hence, the P.L.M.'s monetary and fiscal policies will have to be considered simultaneously with the other policy objectives set out in this manifesto.

The P.L.M. is committed to a development plan. The P.L.M. recognizes the need for a viable economy. The main pillars of the PLAN will be agricultural diversification, promotion of light manufacturing industries, and realistic development of the tourist potential. A better educational system, better roads, comprehensive health programmes and reliable electricity, water and telephone systems are all prerequisites of any development Plan. The P.L.M. pledges all these things and more. We believe that if the P.L.M. is given the mandate to govern, we will have the support and cooperation of the majority of Antiguan to achieve the foregoing objectives.

#### FISCAL POLICY

For simplicity, our fiscal policy is set out under two categories: (1) Budgetary policies and (2) National Income policies.

#### BUDGETARY POLICIES

There are two main aspects of our budgetary policies—revenue and expenditure.

The P.L.M. believes that the system of taxation and administration in Antigua needs a thorough reform. The Party is aware that the areas for taxation are limited. However, many of the indirect taxes on citizens of the State are very regressive. Tax administration is lax. And tax collection is inequitable. The P.L.M. promises a thorough study of the tax structure, with a view of co-ordinating administration under an Internal Revenue Division, and of making the distribution of the tax burden as fair as possible for all individual and corporate citizens and taxpayers. In brief, we will be fair.

The other side of the fiscal policy coin is government expenditure. If the present government has a policy (which we doubt), it is a wasteful and spiteful one. Your present government owes about \$45,000,000 (forty five million dollars). The interest on that each year is well over \$3,000,000 (three million dollars). Future generations of Antiguan will be saddled with this debt which is as a result of a spendthrift policy. Governments do incur debts—but the expenditure from loan funds must be what is called "productive expenditure." This means that whatever you spend this money on, must in the future, be capable of generating income. The Antigua Labour Party has, through its instrument the Labour government, bought on credit several "white elephants." The P.L.M. will not shirk its responsibilities when it forms a government—although the legacy it inherits will be a burden. We propose to consolidate the colossal public debt and hopefully obtain a lower rate of interest by spreading this sizeable debt over a longer period. There is no doubt that they are leaving us with a heavy load. But the above arrangement, although not removing the weight, will lighten it. We will leave no stone unturned to lighten the yoke of a monstrous national debt which is hung around the neck of future generations of Antiguan.

The P.L.M. promises sound control over government expenditure. We believe in the maxim "Waste not, want not!" A government is the caretaker of public funds. The P.L.M. will ensure that every public penny is well spent; that we must get value for every cent. Under a P.L.M. government, contracts for electricity, telephones or what have you, will be scrutinized thoroughly. We propose to use the best of all available skills at our disposal to ensure that we get value for every contract we sign. We know that the present government has wasted public funds. We know that this State's resources are limited and therefore caution and diligence must be the watchwords when considering any government expenditure.

The P.L.M. recognizes that the public sector is a very significant segment of our economy. We will therefore use government expenditure to give some stimulus to the economy. But, we will insist that such expenditure be well planned. We will

insist that such expenditure be efficiently utilized. We will use government expenditure to fight unemployment. As far as possible we will channel some government expenditure into investment-type activity. That is, the P.L.M. will invest public funds in income-producing investments. As far as possible, expenditure under a P.L.M. government will be productive. Not wasteful.

The P.L.M. intends to encourage local participation in our economy. We will promote local saving and investment. To do this, we will establish a simple version of a local money market. Regular opportunities will be given to all interested in Antigua to invest in the State's future by participating in issues of Treasury Bills or similar money documents. In this way, we will stop some of the leakage of our hard earned money into other countries.

So much for budgetary policy. Before considering our National Income Policy, we will set out our views on Monetary Policy.

### **MONETARY POLICY**

As of now, Antigua has no monetary policy. And under the present arrangement it can effectively have none. We are members of the regional East Caribbean Currency Authority (ECCA). The Authority has the legal powers to act as a Central Bank for participating members. Central Banking can assist a country to shape its destiny. The P.L.M. will approach the ECCA with a view to determining to what extent it can develop central banking services for the benefit of Antigua within the current framework.

### **NATIONAL INCOME POLICIES**

The P.L.M. believes that the Antigua economy is inflated. Prices are high. The value received for a consumer's dollar is low. The P.L.M. will set up a Price Review Board to recommend measures to fight inflation and to examine the price of some items which the consumer must buy. For example, the P.L.M. observes that not a single insurance company is locally owned. Their profits must necessarily leak out of the economy. These facts, together with the possibility of high prices of premiums has the effect of causing Antiguan to pay through the nose. The P.L.M. will take a long hard impartial and equitable look at this and similar problems, for the purpose of retaining a substantial portion of the money made for investment in Antigua.

The housing needs of the country are set out elsewhere in this manifesto. It must be remembered that construction is one of the biggest determinants of growth in an economy. The P.L.M. will do its best to encourage mortgage finance money for house building in Antigua. The recent reduction of tax on interest from mortgage funds was a small step in the right direction. The P.L.M. will explore all avenues to ensure that mortgage funds are available, on reasonable conditions, to every Antiguan who wants to provide proper housing for himself and his family.

We all know the History of the present Government in its granting of concessions in Antigua. The P.L.M. will review the fragmented system of granting concessions. We will develop a bold, comprehensive and equitable plan for encouraging sound investment. By "equitable" we mean that objective and decisive criteria must be used in deciding whether or not concessions should be granted. By "equitable" we mean no "deals," no "kickbacks." We want to discourage speculation and fly-by-night operators. We believe that reliable investors want to know what conditions are generally available for objective assessment of their investment proposals. The P.L.M. promises that by a policy of "equity" and "fairplay" it will bring considerable bona fide foreign investment into the island.

Investment can be of two types—"capital intensive" and "labour intensive." Each has its merits. For example, the former may very often be more efficient and productive. The P.L.M. proposes to encourage investment in light manufacturing industries. In as much as ours is a land of people and not of machines, we propose to encourage "labour intensive" manufacture wherever this is feasible and efficient. Where skilled labour is demanded we will fill the gap by co-ordinating our needs in industry with the projected educational development programme.

Finally, we submit that "no man is an island unto himself." The P.L.M. believes that assistance is available from better developed countries. But recipients of such assistance must know what they want. They must be capable of satisfying the exacting criteria required for aid negotiations. The P.L.M. will explore every possible avenue at the United Nations, or with European, American, Canadian or British Governments to get technical and financial assistance and to make optimum use of any assistance given.

Finally, Fiscal Policies require detailed administration. The P.L.M. is prepared for this. But in the broad spectrum, our policy will insist that "equity must replace favouritism; knowledge must replace ignorance; national welfare must replace individual aggrandisement."

WASTE NOT, WANT NOT.

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### **TOURISM**

#### **ANTIGUA HAS A LOT TO OFFER!**

The P.L.M. is confident that the Tourist Industry can be developed to the extent where it can become the biggest dollar earner in the State. The basic ingredients that make for a successful Tourist Industry are present here. First, there is the people. Our people are renowned for their warmth, friendliness and hospitality. Secondly, our tropical climate is such that the State enjoys a constant temperature all year round. Thirdly, this country can boast not only of excellent scenery but also



hundreds of beaches that are easily among the finest in the world.

The P.L.M. is convinced that these are the greatest assets that Antigua possesses and that they should be utilized in such a way as to bring the people of this State the maximum benefits while at the same time giving the tourist the type of satisfaction that will encourage him to tell his friends of Antigua and to return here.

#### **NEW LOOK FOR TOURIST BOARD**

The P.L.M. proposes to abolish the present Tourist Board and set up a reorganized Statutory Board in charge of Tourism. This Board the P.L.M. feels, should pilot the Tourist Industry according to a planned programme of expansion designed to increase and improve on the type of accommodation at present offered and to provide jobs for a greater percentage of Antiguans.

The failures and shortcomings of the Tourist Industry in its present form have been dealt with elsewhere in this manifesto. It is not necessary to repeat them.

#### **WE'LL ENCOURAGE LOCAL INVESTMENT**

Thus far the great majority of investors in this Industry have been small operators who had very little or no previous experience in the Hotel business. The P.L.M. therefore feels that given the natural resources and the extremely favourable conditions that ought to make for a successful Tourist Trade, every effort should be made to attract the large Hotel chains and encourage them to invest in Antigua. And in order to demonstrate the faith that the government has in the future of the Industry, the P.L.M. will be prepared to promote local participation in any venture. This will take the form of either stipulating that Antiguans be given the option of buying shares or of government entering into partnership with any investor. The government will also help individual Antiguans or Antiguan Companies which can raise a stipulated percentage of the total capital outlay required either by participating with them or by underwriting the Scheme.

#### **ADVERTISE WHAT WE HAVE— BECAUSE WE HAVE IT**

The P.L.M. believes that if the maximum benefit is to be had from the Tourist Industry, government should plan, organize and carry out a proper campaign of advertising for the Industry both at home and abroad. The present arrangement and expenditure by government is inadequate and a proper survey of the market from which the tourist will come will have to be made if a planned programme of advertising is to be meaningful and have maximum effect.

At present the majority of hotels in Antigua are of the luxury resort type. While this type of hotel is to be encouraged the P.L.M. feels that the Industry can better be stabilized by increasing the types of hotels in this country.

#### **WE NEED ALL TYPES OF HOTELS . . . WE'LL ENCOURAGE VARIETY**

The average tourist cannot afford luxury hotels and saves sometimes for years in order to enjoy a vacation. The Party feels that inexpensive hotels that do cater to the middle income groups can increase tremendously the number of visitors who come to our islands. To this end, therefore, boarding houses and cottages that can offer cheaper accommodations to those who cannot afford luxury hotels will also be encouraged.

#### **OUR AIM—YEAR ROUND HOTEL OPERATION**

The Tourist Board will have to promote the kind of trade that will make the maximum use of available accommodation throughout the year. The P.L.M. is convinced that closing of hotels during the summer is unproductive, in that millions of dollars worth of investment in buildings and furnishings lie idle with no positive returns. At the same time the whole work force in the Industry becomes unemployed. A special effort will therefore have to be made to promote the summer season by attracting to Antigua the teachers and workers who are on vacation at this time.

#### **CRUISE SHIPS**

In conjunction with the local shipping agents, and acting on its own initiative the Tourist Board will have to make arrangements for Antigua to become a regular port of Call for Tourist Liners.

#### **CARNIVAL**

The Tourist Board will have to play a major role in promoting CARNIVAL and other FESTIVALS that could serve as tourist attractions at this time of the year.

#### **TOURISM CAN CREATE OTHER INDUSTRIES**

A boost can be given to local arts and craft, if what they produce is absorbed by the Tourist Industry. The proper encouragement must be given so that new designs in curios and souvenirs can always be available. If these are produced locally the money paid for them will remain in Antigua instead of going abroad. We must get rid of the Antigua souvenirs that are made in Hong Kong and Japan.

#### **INFRA-STRUCTURE AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT WILL GO HAND IN HAND**

The successful development of Tourism will also depend on the strides made in other sectors of the economy. A proper programme of sanitation and Health, the availability of water twenty four hours per day, constant electricity, good roads and cheap telephone rates are all very necessary if the Industry is to go forward from its present stagnant position.

## **OUR VERY OWN FOOD, MUSIC AND MANAGEMENT**

In addition to providing continental cuisine, Antigua should promote West Indian and Antiguan dishes in both the hotels and the restaurants at reasonable prices, and the standard of entertainment must be of a high quality if we are to impress the tourist either to return or tell his friends of Antigua.

As part of its Education programme the P.L.M. will introduce the performing arts to include music and entertainment of all types as a part of the school curriculum. The Party believes Antiguan should be trained to work at all levels in the Industry and as part of its Education programme will see to the training of our Nationals with a view to their being employed also at Managerial and Administrative levels.

## **PUBLIC RELATIONS**

A proper programme of Public Relations coupled with the teaching of civics in the schools ought to make the General Public aware of the role that every citizen has to play if the expansion that is visualized in the Industry is to become a reality.

## **WE CARE ABOUT TOURISM!**

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## **EDUCATION**

The P.L.M. believes that knowledge is the vehicle of change and progress. However progress and change often produce problems which require more knowledge to solve them. When the P.L.M.'s Charter for education is put into effect the people of Antigua will see a new dynamism, a new sense of purpose at all levels of activity in this State.

The P.L.M. commits itself to an integrated and well organized system of education. More school buildings will be provided; but buildings alone are not enough. We will stress an increase in the quantity and quality of teaching Staff and equipment. The education provided will be broad and comprehensive.

Our State's greatest resources lie in the ability and potential skill of its citizens. The P.L.M. will ensure that every man, woman and child in the State will get the opportunity to develop to the fullest extent possible whatever latent ability and skill they possess.

## **INFANT AND PRIMARY EDUCATION**

Infant and primary education have been cruelly neglected by the present government. The P.L.M. proposes to change this. The P.L.M. proposes to have special departments in some schools set aside for our infants, with special seating and equipment suitable for their ages, comfort and learning experience. Above all, this Party will make every effort to have teachers specially trained for service in the infant classes.

This Party sincerely believes that the primary stage of education is fundamental to our whole education system. This Party will therefore pay special attention to the education of our young citizens at this stage of their development to enable them to realize their full potential.

The present government has been neglecting the early stages of our children's education, and the attempt at providing secondary education has been half-hearted.

The present practice of placing the least experienced and least qualified teachers in the primary departments will be discontinued. The P.L.M. believes that if our children are to gain from the education they will receive at the secondary school stage and later, that they must be given the proper foundation in the primary school. It is this Party's opinion that although our hardworking well-intentioned and very often overworked untrained teachers really try their best, they are severely handicapped. The P.L.M. salutes these teachers for having accomplished as much as they have done, and will make every effort to have them trained.

The backlog of neglect makes the solution of our education problems doubly difficult. We do not have enough teachers and many of our children go to schools where conditions would have been unsatisfactory fifty years ago, let alone the third quarter of the twentieth century.

Nevertheless as a result of the organisational changes and sound teaching in the primary stage of the educational system which the P.L.M. is proposing, the Party believes that the essential foundation will be established on which to build the superstructure of secondary education.

## **SECONDARY EDUCATION**

The P.L.M. proposes that secondary education will be provided free of cost to all children educated in government schools. Pupils at the age of twelve years, will be recruited to comprehensive schools. The greatest advantage of the comprehensive school is that "there is more likelihood that the needs of the individual will be adequately catered for."

The system is designed to take into account the cases of brilliant children who can begin secondary education before the age of twelve. However, in other cases it will be necessary that all pupils, on reaching the age of twelve years, should be directed to central comprehensive schools where a broad curriculum will reflect what is worthwhile keeping in the present curriculum plus an infusion of new and relevant subjects.

The Party is convinced that a sense and feeling of belonging to Antigua can be developed in our children if they know the history of our country, and the history of our people.

These schools will be well staffed and will be given proper facilities. In addition to the normal classroom subjects, these central comprehensive schools will have facilities for the teaching of

science, art, music, industrial arts (metalwork, woodwork, auto-mechanics) commercial subjects (typing, shorthand, bookkeeping) and where possible in suitable rural areas, agricultural science. The Party proposes to concentrate pupils in large schools since it believes that such schools are more economical in staff usage and more effective in the use of expensive facilities.

In order to expand the facilities for the teaching of science in Antigua, this Party will approach Companies and Industries which now enjoy tax free concessions with a view to securing either funds or actual facilities for the teaching of science.

The Party thinks that it is neither necessary nor desirable to force all children into the same mould. It has been proved that all children cannot benefit from a purely academic type of education, hence the curriculum at the secondary stage will be adopted to serve the various levels of ability and interests. Great emphasis will be placed on the teaching of vocational subjects at this level. The P.L.M. recognizes that technical education at the secondary level is one of the prime inducements for location of industries in any emerging country.

All of this presupposes a high percentage of trained and specialised teachers. The P.L.M. will also have to face and overcome a problem that the present government has completely ignored, that of the educationally subnormal or the retarded pupils. It will be necessary to have teachers specially trained for dealing with these children.

#### **TRAINING OF TEACHERS**

We accuse the present government of failing to recruit and train an adequate number of teachers for the nation's schools.

The P.L.M. pledges to staff the schools of Antigua with trained teachers so that our young citizens can reap the full benefit of their education. The Party will expand the teacher training programme so that more trained teachers will become available. The Party believes that when its educational policy is in full swing that it will generate a large number of qualified school "leavers" who will be recruited to the revitalised and expanded Teachers Training College.

In the meantime, in order to satisfy the teaching requirements of the existing secondary schools the Party proposes to increase the number of graduate teachers.

We shall recruit teachers directly from the campuses of the University of the West Indies and from our sister territories in the English-speaking Caribbean. The Party thinks that this interim measure will serve our purpose well until another phase of our teacher training policy is completed.

Since four subjects is the basis of entry of prospective teachers to the Teachers' Training College and since their stay is of two years duration, the Party proposes that trainee teachers, if they so desire, should prepare subjects at the sixth form level, along with their special course—that of being taught to teach. As a measure of encouragement the student who distinguishes himself or herself will be awarded a scholarship to the Cave Hill

Campus (Barbados) of the University of the West Indies.

#### **FURTHER EDUCATION**

The P.L.M. strongly supports the idea of the University of the West Indies as a regional institution and the Party pledges itself to make maximum use of the University's facilities.

The P.L.M. intends to budget a substantial sum of money for a Students' Loan Fund, from which deserving persons can borrow funds to pursue courses at places of higher learning abroad.

The P.L.M. intends to offer at least fifteen scholarships a year to the University of the West Indies (any of the three campuses, depending on the course to be pursued). The Party hopes that as a result of integrated planning our graduates will be absorbed into the teaching and administrative service.

Scholarships and training courses will be given to deserving teachers to equip them to a greater extent for the more efficient performance of their duty. Scholarships will be provided in subject areas e.g. Mathematics, Science and Geography, in which areas our school system is particularly weak.

This Party will also approach governments in Canada, America and Britain to help train our teachers in craft courses and any other courses the P.L.M. thinks will be of benefit to Antigua.

Loans will also be made available to Civil Servants who have the necessary entrance qualification to a University or a seat of higher learning to read for a diploma or a degree.

#### **ADULT EDUCATION**

We accuse the Bird government of failing miserably to consider the needs of those persons who passed through the post primary classes of our schools.

We accuse the Bird government of doing nothing to encourage the further education of adults in the community.

The P.L.M. proposes to expand the Teachers' Training College into a large educational complex. Here, in addition to the teacher training programme mentioned above, the Party proposes to set up a Technical Institute where persons can improve on or continue their education in evening classes.

This polytechnic institute will cater not only to academic studies, but also to such courses as typing (to fill government and business needs), accountancy (to intermediate level), auto-mechanic studies, building trades, plumbing, metalwork, radio servicing, refrigeration and any other fields of study which are needed by (and will be of benefit to) the community.

Any interested person will be able to register for courses at this polytechnic institute but it is expected that pupils who will have concentrated on the industrial arts and vocational subjects in the comprehensive schools will graduate either to day or evening classes in the "TECH" (the polytechnic institute).

The P.L.M. feels that more graduates should be recruited into the Civil Service and that more Civil Servants should be given the opportunity to participate in courses and seminars that will make them more qualified to perform their duties.

The P.L.M. intends to activate the post of Training Officer in the Civil Service and hopes thereby to establish a system of in-service training at all levels of the Service with a view to keeping the Civil Service constantly up to date in matters pertaining to their work and to human relations. In order to achieve this, courses will be run at the Tech for all levels of the Civil Service with the co-operation of the Training Officer and the Establishment Division. Special courses will be run in co-operation with the Extra-Mural Department (University of the West Indies) in Organisation and Management Studies for Civil Servants and others from the business community to prepare them for positions for the middle and upper management level.

A Hotel Training Centre will also be incorporated into this technical institute. The Party deplors the present government's policy of training only maids and waiters for the Hotel Industry. The P.L.M. has a wider training policy. In addition to the training of maids, receptionists, bartenders and waiters, the P.L.M. proposes to institute training in all phases of Hotel Management so that Antiguans can be trained to fill executive and managerial posts in the growing Hotel Industry.

Teachers of Home Economics and other interested persons could also be trained at this Hotel Training Centre.

The P.L.M. intends to hold discussions with the University of the West Indies to explore the possibility of securing their participation in the TECH. If this is secured the P.L.M.'s strategy is to allow Antiguans to complete the first two years of their university course here. We believe that this will make it less expensive for Antiguans to achieve a University Education.

There are no proper centres in the West Indies for studying Labour and Industrial Relations. The P.L.M. intends to seek the help of I.L.O. in introducing such studies at the TECH and hope in the long run to see the TECH as a college of the University of the West Indies, specializing in Hotel Studies and Industrial and Labour Relations.

#### **RADIO AND TELEVISION**

The P.L.M. proposes to explore the possibilities of beginning a pilot project of school broadcasts (through, and in co-operation with, the government-owned broadcasting station) in selected schools (in the first place).

Later the P.L.M. proposes to institute television broadcasts to schools to complement, and not replace, existing teaching resources.

In order to achieve the goals we envisage, the P.L.M. proposes to set up a new division in the Ministry of Education, a Visual Aids section in collaboration with the Broadcasting Officer. This division will organise school broadcasting and tele-

vision services and will be responsible for films on loan from various overseas agencies for use both in schools and in the adult education classes.

#### **ADMINISTRATION**

For too long has education in Antigua been the "poor relation" of everything else. The P.L.M. realises that education will be the key to the successful implementation of all its other programmes therefore it pledges to put EDUCATION in its rightful place by carrying out the following:—

- (1) The Party proposes to set up a Ministry to deal with Education and Community Welfare.
- (2) that a new Education Act be drafted to replace the outdated one No. 10 of 1956.
- (3) the setting up of an Education Planning Unit to plan and integrate programmes in the Ministry itself and to work in harmony with the other Ministries.
- (4) the setting up of a Teaching Service Commission to look about appointments, transfers and discipline of teachers.
- (5) a massive expansion of the library services, both at the National and school level.
- (6) the setting up of a maintenance unit attached to the Ministry of Education.
- (7) comprehensive schools imply mass movement of pupils from their homes to central schools. The P.L.M. promises a subsidised school bus service to facilitate the movement of pupils and Staff from one place to another.
- (8) when children are far from their homes the question of food arises. Even then the proper nutrition of our young citizens must be the concern of the government. St. Vincent and Barbados have already initiated School Lunch Programmes with the help of the United Nations. In the same way, the P.L.M. pledges to explore the possibilities with the World Food Programme (United Nations) for help in the institution of a School Feeding Programme.
- (9) the P.L.M. pledges to standardise the curriculum in the schools of Antigua.
- (10) the P.L.M. pledges to standardise the textbooks in government schools.

**BE PROGRESSIVE  
VOTE P. L. M.**

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#### **LABOUR**

The present government claims to be a Labour government. It is supported by a Trade Union, but it has never introduced any legislation to help improve the lot of the worker or the Trade Unions in Antigua. Instead the government has introduced legislation to stifle the free operation of the Trade Union Movement—hence the introduction of a Law

compelling people to work in Essential Services and establishing an Industrial Court.

The P.L.M. is supported by the Antigua Workers Union, and feels strongly that both of these, the Essential Services Law and the Industrial Court, are retrograde steps. The Party will therefore abolish the Industrial Court and repeal the Essential Services Law in order to allow both Labour and Management to arrive at Agreements via a process of free bargaining around the negotiation table.

The P.L.M. feels that if properly trained mediators and conciliators are employed in a re-organised Labour Department and given adequate legislation to compel Employers and Employees to appear at the Labour Department, the process of conciliation and consultation would settle differences to the satisfaction of all sides. This we believe is a better way of dealing with Industrial and Labour Disputes. The P.L.M. intends to re-organize the Labour Department to achieve this.

The P.L.M. will enact legislation, which even in the event of a National crisis will protect the community, and as far as possible ensure the fundamental rights of the individual.

The P.L.M. will set up a manpower survey so that government will always be appraised of the surpluses and shortages in the supply of skilled and unskilled labour in the State. We will thus be able to use this information, not only in supplying industry with personnel but also in carrying out a training and educational programme. The Party is convinced that a **LABOUR CODE IS NECESSARY NOW**, so that when investors come here, they will be under no illusions as to the type of modern Trade Union practices that prevail and that they will know what to expect and what in turn is expected of them.

The Party will therefore make it legal for **EVERY WORKER** to have:—

- (1) Compulsory Annual Vacation Leave.
- (2) Paid Public Holidays.
- (3) Paid Sick Leave.
- (4) Pay in lieu of notice.
- (5) Severance Pay.
- (6) The number of hours worked per week regulated.
- (7) Certain minimum standards in factories and other places of work with respect to ventilation and lighting, and any other factors that can adversely affect health.
- (8) A minimum wage in his category.
- (9) Equal pay for women and men who perform the same jobs under the same conditions.

The P.L.M. is pledged to introduce a proper National Provident Fund, and a system of Social Security.

We believe that a happy worker will be more willing to work and be more productive than one who is unhappy. The P.L.M. as part of its educational programme will therefore encourage firms

(where this is feasible) to initiate and maintain training programmes of their own. At the same time, it is the policy of the Party to help to provide trained men to work in industry. This is also true of the Civil Service, and the Party hopes to be able to activate the post of Training Officer in order to train Civil Servants and improve on the standards we already have in the Service, and thus make for greater efficiency.

The Party feels that our young "school leavers" who are recruited into the Civil Service, can best serve the community if they are given a special course before they begin dealing with the public. We feel that during this time of training, they should be paid their normal salary and we are convinced that the end result will be to produce young Civil Servants who are more attuned to and more aware of the demands that will be required of them in the Service.

The Party is committed to a policy of filling the jobs in this country with Antiguan Nationals. It deplores the callous attitude adopted by the present government in not putting the interest of Antiguan first when it comes to job opportunities. The P.L.M. is firmly convinced that proper Laws should be introduced to regulate the issuing of 'Work Permits', and that these 'Work Permits' should only be issued for jobs if Antiguan are not qualified enough to do the jobs. The P.L.M. government will see to it that the Employer makes provisions for an Antiguan to understudy that person for a specified time, or if the Employer is unable to help in training an Antiguan, that after consultation with government, some means of training should be worked out by which one of our Nationals will replace the holder of the 'Work Permit' within a limited and specified period of time.

The aim of the P.L.M. is not only to foster peace on the Industrial front, but to do all that lies in its power to wipe out unemployment in the State of Antigua, and increase productivity to our maximum. This we are committed to do, realizing that while we are seeking to foster peace on the Industrial front, we must at the same time cultivate a feeling of security and a sense of justice in every sector of the economy.

A VOTE FOR P. L. M.  
MEANS SECURITY  
FOR EVERY WORKER.

### AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK & FISHERIES

The P.L.M. believes that agriculture plays a most important role in the development of the economy of any country, and it believes that the economic progress of Antigua has been severely handicapped because of the rapid increase in the importation of meats, fruits and vegetables. The Trade Reports for this State have indicated quite clearly that millions of dollars leak out of the economy in order to pay for the food we eat.

After 25 years the Labour Government is still unable to produce a policy for agriculture and in fact seems quite incapable of so doing.

The P.L.M. will give Antigua an AGRICULTURAL POLICY NOW, because it realises that agriculture has too important a part to play in the economy to allow it to become a BURDEN.

#### GENERAL

The P.L.M. will ensure that the following basic steps will immediately be taken:—

(1) REORGANISATION OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF AGRICULTURE: The present government now has five distinct departments in the Ministry of Agriculture that bear no relationship with each other. These are (1) The Research Department at Dunbars (2) The Sugar Board at the Antigua Sugar Factory (3) The Livestock Division at Olivers (4) The Irrigation Experiments at Claremont and (5) The Peasant Development Office at St. John's.

The result has been that there is no over-all programme for agriculture. There is a wasteful REPE- TITION of experiments and a waste of money and the country has not progressed.

At present, because of the high priority placed on political Party connections and Party loyalty etc., each section reports directly to the Ministry and carries on its own work without reference to any other section in the Department of Agriculture. The title Director of Agriculture is therefore meaningless under the present system.

Instead of the five distinct departments of Agriculture which now exist under the Labour Government, instead of the wasteful repetition of experiments and expenditure of money, instead of the lack of an overall programme for agriculture, the P.L.M. will have one integrated department supervised and headed by the Director of Agriculture so that the programmes for scientific research and experimentation, marketing, technical assistance, food crop production, sugar and cotton, re-forestation, livestock, and fisheries, will all be phased into one common goal and plan.

The reorganisation will make the post of Director of Agriculture become a meaningful one, will make more efficient use of the professional Staff, will bring about equal treatment for all agricultural enterprises and will eliminate political manipulation and wasteful duplication. The agricultural public will be able to deal with the professional Staff and not seek political favours from the Minister in charge of this section of the economy.

(2) LAND UTILISATION BASED ON SOIL AND LAND USE SURVEYS: The P.L.M. realises the need for proper zoning for agricultural development and for the proper and controlled expansion of towns and villages. Soil and land Use Surveys will enable the government to ensure that agricultural land will be retained for agriculture and not for housing schemes.

(3) CREDIT FACILITIES FOR FARMERS: At present loans are given only to those who grow cane and cotton and chiefly to those who support the Antiguan Labour Party. There is no regular supervision of the Farmers' programme to see if the loan is being used for the purpose for which it had been granted. By reorganizing agriculture as stated above, the P.L.M. intends to end the practice where agricultural loans are a political award. The granting of loans will only be based on a sound agricultural programme and the judges of this will be qualified technical persons employed in agriculture. Not political appointees. The P.L.M. will not only ensure that the loan is used for the purpose for which it was given but will also make technical advice available to the farmer to see to it that the best use is made of the loan in improving his agriculture.

A P.L.M. government will pursue a policy which will cause financial institutions to grant long-term credit facilities to farmers.

(4) A SYSTEM OF LAND TENURE TO ENCOURAGE BONA FIDE FARMERS: The P.L.M. realises that it must encourage small farmers and ensure that they can make a decent living from agriculture. Antigua is in a fortunate position in that its government has control of approximately 80% of all lands in Antigua, Barbuda and Redonda. The P.L.M. will therefore ensure that each farmer has a farm of economic size, and will protect agriculture by a system of land tenure which will ensure that the land is kept under constant production by BONA FIDE farmers.

(5) REVISION OF LEGISLATION WHICH STIFLES AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION: The P.L.M. realises that the present system of price control does not take into account the production costs of the farmer, and it places him at a disadvantage with overseas suppliers. The P.L.M. will carry out a drastic revision of the price control legislation to protect the Antiguan farmer.

The P.L.M. has realised too that certain products such as animal and poultry feeds, fertilisers and other demands are subject to high, import duties, with the result that the farmer's production costs are correspondingly high. The P.L.M. has appreciated that the time has come to assist the farmers and livestock owners and it will take a long hard look at the situation, encouraging where possible the production of feeds and fertilisers in Antigua, and ensuring that farmers and livestock owners get the goods which are absolutely necessary for agricultural and livestock development at the best possible prices.

(6) TECHNICAL TRAINING AND ASSISTANCE FOR THE SMALL FARMER: The P.L.M. is convinced that it is absolutely vital to give the farmer as much training as possible in the methods of modern scientific agricultural development. The educational programme outlines some of the areas of assistance, and training in agriculture, but in addition the P.L.M. will ensure that its trained agricultural officers will be able to give full instruction and supervision to the farmers in the latest agri-

cultural techniques including the use of fertilisers, the methods of proper drainage and irrigation, the prevention of soil erosion and other related matters.

In addition the Department of Agriculture will be equipped to provide the farmer with fertilisers and healthy seeds and seedlings, and the livestock owner with pedigree animals.

(7) **FOOD QUALITY CONTROL:** At present Antigua spends millions of dollars on the importation of meat, fish, vegetables and fruits and the Labour Government has no way of knowing if the imported food is fit for human consumption. The P.L.M. feels that the time has come for Antigua to join other civilised countries and orientate the Laboratory at Dunbars to do simple quality control work on the examination of such goods as flour, milk powder, milk, vegetables and meats. The necessary legislation to control the standard of food and beverages will also be presented for the consideration of Parliament.

### **SUGAR**

Despite its recent decline, sugar is still the largest industrial investment owned by the Antigua Government. A decision must soon be made about the future of sugar and its future will only be determined after a thorough economic investigation by modern sugar technologists and qualified economists with international sugar experience.

Until then, the P.L.M. intends to buttress the sugar industry so that the large number of persons at present involved in the industry can continue to have employment. Until a decision on the future of the industry is arrived at, a programme of intercropping with cash crops which has proved so successful in other countries will be followed.

### **COTTON**

Cotton is one of the real hopes as an export crop for the small farmer. Antigua and certain other Caribbean Islands are known for the fact that they produce the finest quality of sea-island cotton in the world. However low prices paid by the spinners and recent competition with synthetic fibres have made the future of cotton uncertain. Any effort made with respect to cotton will be with the fullest cooperation with other Eastern Caribbean territories. Investigation into the feasibility of establishing a cotton mill in the Eastern Caribbean will be made so that sea-island cotton material can be produced in this area for sale as a luxury product to tourists and abroad.

### **AGRICULTURAL DIVERSIFICATION**

With the decreasing importance of the usual agricultural export crops, and the continued improvement of the tourist trade, it is becoming more and more necessary that Antigua aims as far as possible to be able to feed its people and its visitors. It is becoming absolutely necessary, therefore, to diversify Antigua's agriculture. But diversification calls for a plan and a programme which the Labour Government has yet been unable to give.

The P.L.M. believes that a reorganised Agricultural Department will be the stepping stone to this agricultural diversification, and in this connection the P.L.M. intends to see to it that the best lands of the State are put into the production of vegetables and staple foods such as potatoes, tomatoes, yams, onions, green vegetables, peas, beans, carrots, etc.

If this programme of feeding Antigua is successful, and the possibility of exporting food produce becomes a reality, the P.L.M. will encourage a series of secondary industries such as the canning and processing of fruits and vegetables.

Research has already revealed that corn and other similar plants can be very important to the future of this State if produced in sufficient quantities, both for human consumption and as the base for animal and poultry feeds. The P.L.M. intends to investigate all possibilities and involve all the people in this policy of agricultural diversification.

### **LIVESTOCK**

Research has already revealed that there are several areas in Antigua which are marginal as far as agricultural production is concerned, but which would be extremely suitable for livestock production. The P.L.M. will give the proper incentives so that livestock such as sheep, goats, pigs, cattle and poultry can be produced in sufficient quantities to feed Antigua. These incentives will be provided in education, proper legislative measures on the importation of meats from overseas to protect local production and the provision of proper marketing and cold storage facilities.

The P.L.M. will also provide fenced communal grazing areas for the small stock owners and will lay emphasis on providing these people with proper training in the care and USE of livestock.

### **MARKETING**

The success or failure of the programme of agricultural diversification depends very heavily on the marketing programme of the government. The present government has had no programme for marketing and this has been one of the major causes of the failure of agriculture.

The Party realizes that there must be an incentive to attract the farmer and allow him to remain on the land. At present the price control Law never takes into account what are the production costs of the farmer. He is given a price at which he MUST sell his goods. These bear no relation to what it costs him to grow and produce his goods. However there is no price control for foreign produce that is imported. The P.L.M. feels (1) That THE LAW SHOULD NOT BE DESIGNED TO SQUEEZE THE LOCAL FARMER AND PREVENT HIM FROM COMPETING WITH OVERSEAS PRODUCERS, (2) that we must protect our agriculture and keep as much of our money as possible circulating in Antigua.

No provision has been made for quality and grade differentials, seasonal variations and retail

margins in the legislation governing Price Control. There has been no proper storage facilities and the facilities for agricultural credit have been far from satisfactory.

The P.L.M. will establish a Marketing Division, properly staffed by trained personnel—a Marketing Division concerned as much with sufficient buyers as with the quantity and quality of products. The P.L.M. appreciates that we must first probe the demand for the goods, and then in order to satisfy the demand, give the producers guaranteed prices on their goods. The process will not be a sudden one, but one which will gradually be expanded to involve the entire State.

To ensure the proper development of agriculture the P.L.M. will therefore establish a proper market research programme, encourage the setting up of a marketing cooperative (this is one of the areas where the P.L.M. feels the cooperative idea will flourish excellently), provide a proper centre with adequate storage facilities, investigate consumer needs, revise price control Laws, reduce dependence on importation of foodstuffs, and finally carry out a programme of public re-education so that people will be able to appreciate that Antiguan foodstuffs are as good as those from industrialized and other countries.

#### FORESTRY

The P.L.M. has noted with dismay the gradual disappearance of the many large trees that once dotted the countryside. It is concerned about the ruinate and delapidated state of the Botanical Gardens, and the gradual disappearance of the coconut plantations which existed at Dark Wood, Cades Bay and Fort James. It is horrified at the uncontrolled destruction of the trees of ornamental and economic value. It is frightening to know that the present government has no plan — no forest reserves, no CONSCIOUS tree-planting programme.

The P.L.M. intends to establish a Forestry Division in the Department of Agriculture which will be responsible for:—

- (1) The protection of certain areas, designated as forest reserves.
- (2) A phased programme for the planting of trees of economic and/or ornamental value and
- (3) The regular supervision and care of trees planted in the reforestation programme.

The P.L.M. programme will include the planting of such trees as mahogany, white cedar, red cedar, teak, *lignum vitae* etc., to provide for a future supply of wood for the furniture and boatbuilding industries. These trees will be planted in the hilly areas where the soil is deep and the rainfall high.

The forestry plan will involve the restoration of the Botanical Gardens, the re-introduction of Arbor Day (to make the people conscious of the beauty of trees) the ornamental planting of attractive trees at the side of major roads, and in areas being developed as historic sites. The P.L.M. will also

begin a systematic planting of coconut trees on government-owned beach lands, and will encourage private owners of seaside lands to do the same.

The Party feels that Antigua's low rainfall (in comparison with the other islands of the Caribbean) makes it all the more reason for pursuing a vigorous reforestation programme in order to maintain an adequate tree cover throughout the whole State.

#### FISHING

For its size, Antigua with its irregular shape and hundreds of bays and inlets, has one of the longest coastlines in the Caribbean. Yet our people have never become a seafaring people. For the past 200 years, our fishing habits and techniques have remained the same. Now, the time has come for us to make use of the sea around us.

The present government has made half-hearted attempts to help the local fishermen to have better equipment for fishing within the present system. This is certainly not the answer. The goal of the P.L.M. is not merely to provide some fish for the local population, but to provide sufficient for the local market and for export.

The P.L.M. will get an expert assessment of the industry and its potential, and will see to it that the large type fishing trawler and proper equipment that are needed, are obtained.

In order to achieve this the P.L.M. will rent or lease trawlers complete with crew and fishing gear from either Peru or Japan or some other fishing country that has acquired expertise in fishing. At the same time the Party will see to it that Antiguan understudy these crewmen.

The Party feels that based on the Liberian experience, these trawlers can easily pay for themselves and bring the State revenue, while at the same time our fishermen are acquiring the necessary skills and techniques in deep-sea fishing. Eventually it is the plan of the P.L.M. government to get fishermen to pool their resources and (with the assistance of the government and international agencies) to purchase similar vessels to carry on the trade. This the P.L.M. feels will not only serve to build up our own independent fishing fleet, but also lay the foundation for our first Fishermen's Cooperative.

A P.L.M. government will also provide cold storage facilities both on ship and on shore for the preservation of the fish. It will apply the same marketing techniques to the fishing industry which it intends to employ in agriculture.

The P.L.M. also envisages a healthy lobster industry. It will train inshore fishermen on the techniques of catching lobsters and will institute regulations to give the industry protection at the right time of year.

With the success of the fishing industry, the P.L.M. envisages secondary industries such as the canning of the right type of fish, fish meal, pet foods etc.

As with agriculture and livestock, the P.L.M. in-



tends to transform the fishing industry, so that it becomes as vitally important to Antigua as any other sector of the economy.

## BEAT FOOD PRICES WITH LOCAL AGRICULTURE.

### **PUBLIC WORKS, COMMUNICATION, HOUSING, WATER & ELECTRICITY, ROADS**

Communication plays a vital role in the life of any country, and any country, especially one that is concerned with its development should ensure that it builds a proper communications system. In this system, roads ought to occupy a place of special importance. In Antigua this is not so. Our roads have been completely neglected. In Antigua, even though the Antiguan citizen can sometimes get about and can move his produce and get his children to school etc., our roads have not been widened and developed to keep pace with the modern vehicles available to us for daily use in the city and for use in agriculture and the rural areas. Our city and villages have grown and continue to grow far beyond the limits of the available access roads. The result is that many have to trudge through the mud like the first settlers of this land and many a vehicle collapses under the strain caused by bad and muddy roads bringing to the owner financial loss and ruin.

In a survey conducted in 1958 to assist in deciding upon the Federal Capital site, Antigua's roads were described as being too narrow for two vehicles and too winding with too many sharp corners. Today after twelve years of so called development, these problems still exist. Only 19 miles of main roadway has been widened and improved in the last 12 years. The problems of drainage beg for solution in Grays Farm, York Village and many other parts of the island. In the same way, the problems connected with our major roadways are in dire need of being solved in order to ensure the safety and comfort of the travelling public.

The present system of road building and maintenance cannot keep pace with our requirements for new roads, reconstruction and road repairs. If the road programme is to be meaningful, it must be able to put roads in the villages, and it must be able to keep the main roads surfaced and in good condition. The P.L.M. therefore proposes to mechanise much more fully the building of our main roads by using Barbergreene equipment, graders and additional heavy equipment. This we feel will release some of the 'Road Gangs' to enable them to deal more effectively with village and rural secondary roads.

For the results obtained, far too much money, strength and energy are used on the main roads. Mechanisation could do much more. It is not proposed by this that less people will be employed on the roads — on the contrary. The P.L.M. intends to carry out a full programme of maintenance and Public beautification which will require additional

labour on roads etc. Thus in keeping with our proposed tourist development, our main roads will have to be properly landscaped and berms will have to be levelled to facilitate maintenance. In addition attention will be given to a steady maintenance patrol on all major and secondary roads with a view to effecting timely repairs and thus avoid excessive maintenance costs.

In keeping with the importance of our agricultural production programme, the Party will direct its attention to the proper development of Agricultural Roads to ensure that the constant and regular carriage of crops even during very wet periods is possible.

Finally the P.L.M. will take definite steps to ensure that public roads are not closed, mis-used or redirected by private citizens for their own purposes without proper authority.

A P.L.M. government will see to it that there is close co-ordination between the Road Division of P.W.D. and the Ministry in charge of government lands in order to ensure the effective scheduling of all public roads and access ways. A P.L.M. government will also ensure the maintenance of public roads and access ways, especially for the service of farmers and livestock owners in areas engaged in agricultural production.

It would be expected that this programme will require additional and better trained Staff for the Road Division.

The P.L.M. is keenly aware of the needs to train technicians for the building and maintenance of our roads. We will spare no effort in training immediately, existing and additional Staff, utilizing first of all those persons who already have experience in the Road Division at the P.W.D.

### **PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

One of the prime factors that contribute to the sense of unity and oneness in a country and facilitates the circulation of money, and the mobilisation of the whole work force is a proper system of transportation. The Antiguan worker and the many school children from the rural districts are all greatly affected by the non-existence of a proper and regular transportation service. Many a young girl suffers insult and injury by begging a lift and many a worker has to stand by the wayside for hours—waiting for a ride. The P.L.M. knows that hundreds of thousands of dollars are spent yearly on the purchase of cars solely for the purpose of getting families to work. These families need that extra \$4,000 (four thousand dollars) to improve their homes and educate their children. They cannot afford it. In addition to this, a fantastic number of man hours is lost each day because of the existing irregular bus service.

In order to exploit Antigua's opportunities more fully, the P.L.M. will investigate the possibility of setting up a public transport system for the State, with a view to making the movement of persons to and from the rural areas far easier. It is recognised that many persons are now engaged in offering this service, thus consideration of their involvement in

an improved and enlarged service will of necessity have to be made.

The P.L.M. will insist on regulated means of communication between Barbuda and Antigua both by air and by sea. We will ensure that Barbudans are not isolated and handicapped in this respect.

#### AIRPORT

Coolidge airport is regarded by the P.L.M. as being of vital importance to this State and also to its tourism.

The P.L.M. is conscious of the ever changing technological world in which we live and does not regard any improvement at the Air Terminal as being final. Moreover the P.L.M. regards the Air Terminal as an ever changing and expanding project which will constantly require growth in one form or another. The P.L.M. will therefore make provision for its constant growth and based upon the best technical advice, will set aside the lands to allow for smooth, cheaper and unimpeded development.

Special attention will be paid to passenger handling to accommodate the greater flow expected over the coming years and to enable them to pass through the Customs, Immigration and Baggage Departments with a minimum of time and trouble.

Since Antigua's airport serves as an entry point for passengers from other islands of the Caribbean, plans to enhance and exploit this advantage by providing overnight accommodation, cafeteria service, and entertainment, will receive special attention in the P.L.M. development plan for Coolidge Air Field.

It is our desire to see to it that any future extension of the runway goes eastwards to the sea to avoid increasing the noise hazards at the hospital, the villages surrounding the airport and in the city.

In view of the adverse effects that present and future development of the airport will have on adjacent lands, the P.L.M. will develop a plan for maximum utilisation of these affected areas. Such lands might best be used for industries rather than for residences.

#### TELEPHONE AND TELECOMMUNICATION

In a world where the telephone is universally being regarded as an essential commodity, the P.L.M. recognises Antigua's lag in this field. This Party is concerned about our new telephone system—the present high rates and the lack of a sufficient number of telephones for those who desire to have them. The P.L.M. also realises that a good telephone system with an adequate number of connections within and without the State is also vital to our Tourist Industry.

The Party will therefore make the necessary efforts to see that reliable telephone communication is easily available to any citizen in the State at a cost that will not be prohibitive and will encourage as many persons as possible to have this service.

The P.L.M. will ensure that Barbuda will be properly incorporated into the telephone system whereby the people of Barbuda can readily be in contact with their loved ones in Antigua as well as elsewhere.

#### HOUSING

Under the Colonial Government, Antigua never had a housing scheme. Under the present Labour Government, Antigua has not yet been given a housing scheme. There has been no planning associated with the expansion of the city and as a result St. John's has been in recent years spreading unchecked. Government has been either unable or unwilling to keep pace with the expansion and to provide proper facilities. This has given rise to insanitation, poor drainage and lack of electricity and water services in these expanded areas. The P.L.M. will remedy this.

In these and other areas, developers have been allowed to sell land in so-called development areas without having been asked to provide even the minimum standards required by the Law when supplying roads, water and electricity. Surface drainage never seems to have been thought of. These speculators make huge profits. Later when the new purchasers find conditions unbearable, taxpayers are eventually given the burden of rescuing the unfortunate buyers by supplying their roads etc. This is iniquitous. This is an unnecessary burden on taxpayers.

The P.L.M. will therefore introduce a Town and Country Planning Act that will contain a building code to set standards by which houses must be built. It will regulate the size of plots of land so that:—

- (1) Plots that are too small, will not be used as building sites.
- (2) Building plots will not be sold without supplying properly built roads, and without installing water mains and facilities for electric lighting on the project.
- (3) Every scheme will have to fit certain standards that are laid down, before the scheme can be approved.
- (4) Effective zoning can be introduced into the State and certain areas set aside for recreation areas and parks etc.
- (5) The town can expand in a planned orderly fashion, in order that any expansion can be supplied with modern amenities such as light, water, telephones etc.
- (6) That genuine agricultural lands are made to produce and not cut up for housing.

The P.L.M. is aware of the shortage of housing that exists in the State. The Party will:—

- (1) Encourage building societies.
- (2) Seek to introduce a policy of lower interest rates for money borrowed to finance housing development. (The Party feels that housing is important enough to warrant special treatment as far as loans are concerned.)

- (3) Approach the banks to encourage them to give long term loans for housing so that borrowers will have approximately 20 years in which to repay a housing loan.
- (4) Encourage the banks to give 100% mortgage.
- (5) Tackle the overcrowded conditions that exist in certain parts of the city by initiating a housing scheme or schemes in which government will undertake the whole programme, or underwrite a scheme either by Insurance Companies or a Finance Company in which provisions will be made for Antiguans to pay for and own their own homes over a period of 20-25 years.

Depending on the requirements of the area in which the housing development will take place, the P.L.M. will either introduce a system of low rise, low cost flats, or build individual bungalows of varying designs.

For the purpose of lessening the cost of construction, and overall costs, the Party will introduce concessions and incentives to the building industry. Also in this field the P.L.M. will encourage the training of more Antiguans who will participate in achieving the National goals set by the Party by providing new concepts in building and more and better homes for Antiguans.

#### **PUBLIC BUILDINGS**

It will be one of the express purposes of a P.L.M. government to see that monies voted for the maintenance of our public buildings are properly spent on these buildings and nowhere else. The appalling state of disrepair and the dirty look of some of our major public buildings reflect both a lack of national and public pride on the part of those who have been responsible for the administration of our affairs.

The P.L.M. believes that by laying stress on preventative and constant maintenance checks, much money can be saved. The P.L.M. intends to introduce such a policy and to adopt this approach to our building maintenance.

The Party recognises the need for improved and enlarged quarters for several government departments e.g. the Treasury, Public Library, Electricity, Printery etc., etc. as early as possible, the P.L.M. will make a special survey of these needs with a view to making a comprehensive plan for housing government departments in more accessible and more appropriate areas. As a result of these changes, we hope to help lessen the delays in inter-departmental co-operation. A programme of building will therefore be drawn up and priorities adhered to.

#### **WATER**

No other essential service is as important to the development of this State's resources as is our water services.

The P.L.M. is satisfied that only by careful planning based upon proper technical advice can we develop our water services to meet our present and future development needs.

The Party regards investment in water as being capable of generating money through the effect this service has on our Tourist Industry and agricultural production.

The P.L.M. will therefore secure the necessary finance by loans where required, and harnessing all resources will ensure that adequate supplies of water will be available and properly and adequately distributed to all citizens of the State at a price that every citizen can afford. The Party notes that only a mere 20% of the population have pipe-borne water in their homes. Our objective is to raise the standard to allow as many householders as possible to have this service.

In keeping with the Party's policy on agriculture, water will be allocated for agricultural purposes.

The Party is painfully aware that our villages are without fire hydrants. All efforts to remedy this will be made so that the villagers' properties can be protected and insurance for village houses may become cheaper and be more readily obtained.

#### **ELECTRICITY**

The intermittent supply, and the poor distributive quality of the electricity service over the past five years have no doubt taken great toll on industry—from hotel and light industry to small joiner shop as well as in private homes throughout the State. The Party is convinced that this poor service coupled with the lack of water has been one of the main causes of the complete absence of new light industries and new hotels over the last five years.

The P.L.M. is concerned at the large sums of money invested in electricity by the Labour government. The P.L.M. is concerned that in spite of the large sums of money invested, the Labour government has failed to produce even the minimum requirements of this essential commodity. The P.L.M. is concerned that in spite of the poor service the citizens of the State are paying extremely high rates. Rates which are constantly climbing without any corresponding improvement in the service provided. The P.L.M. is concerned that our city, St. John's is at the same time one of the most dimly lit in the Caribbean. Our villages fare even worse. And even though some of these are only now receiving one or two street lights, the facilities are still inadequate.

This Party proposes to review the whole problem of electricity with a view to correcting this situation, and with a view to providing an adequate and reliable service at a rate which will be within the reach of every citizen. The lighting of the city of St. John's, its suburbs and its villages will receive the earliest possible attention. Key points on our main roads where illuminated signs are needed for the better direction of our citizens and of tour-

## FORESTRY

The P.L.M. will adopt the same approach to its Forestry programme in Barbuda as it has in Antigua, and will introduce "economic trees". The Party also intends to carry out a programme of coconut planting in order properly to establish coconut plantations in the coastal areas of Barbuda. We will also encourage the planting of ornamental and fruit trees.

## FISHING

The P.L.M. intends to encourage the fishermen in Barbuda to participate in their programme of training and expansion of the fishing industry in which the fishermen of the State will be involved. In addition to this, a P.L.M. government will pay special attention to the development of the lobster industry in Barbuda, for we are convinced that, properly organized, the lobster trade can be a profitable source of income to those who participate in it.

## WATER

Barbuda has no pipe-borne water. Codrington still gets its water by using a bucket attached to a rope and throwing it down a well. This is both inconvenient and insanitary. There is also the risk of children drowning in this unfenced well. The P.L.M. intends to provide Codrington with pipe-borne water and to end this primitive inconvenient system that the Bird Government has allowed to remain as it used to be when slavery was abolished over one hundred years ago. The Party also intends to make provision for the watering of animals (sheep, goats, etc.) to guard against the dry season when the natural catchment of water in the village goes dry. We feel that this problem could be solved by building one or more troughs at certain points in the Village.

The rock formation beneath the shallow soil in Barbuda is of limestone and coral and there are catchments of underground water that exist in certain areas. The P.L.M. government will erect pumps and after tapping these underground sources of water, pipe the water to serve as a means of supplying the needs of the Village, and providing water for vegetable irrigation and livestock purposes.

## DEVELOPMENT OF CRAFT INDUSTRIES

The P.L.M. intends to make the establishment of a handicraft centre one of its first projects in Barbuda. The P.L.M. considers that the vast supply of sea shells, driftwood, mangrove wood and other marine material coupled with the sisal palms and jumbie-beads available in Barbuda, can form the raw material for a thriving industry that can serve as a source of employment. Also, bearing in mind that a P.L.M. government will concentrate on producing souvenirs made in Antigua instead of selling souvenirs made in Hong Kong and Japan, the Barbuda handicraft centre could develop a thriving

export trade. The P.L.M. feels it can accomplish this by (a) Erecting a handicraft centre and (b) Providing teachers at the centre who will train Barbudans in mastering the handicraft skills. The P.L.M. also feels that a continuous training programme that will allow those who have mastered certain skills to study further will be of benefit to the whole project and the whole State.

## PUBLIC WORKS

The P.L.M. believes that a programme of Public Works e.g. the building of a reservoir for Codrington, the improvement of roads in the Village with proper sidewalks, and drainage facilities, and the construction of roads to link Codrington with Coco Point, Spanish Point and Two Foot Bay must be part of any development programme for Barbuda. An immediate programme of Public Works can help to solve the unemployment problem.

## ELECTRICITY

The P.L.M. deploras the poor electricity service that has been supplied to Barbudans, and feels that if Barbuda is to be developed, electricity must be supplied twenty four hours per day. The P.L.M. also deploras the irregular fluctuation of voltage that has caused so much hardship to Barbudans whose electrical equipment constantly become damaged as a result of the poor service.

If water is to be pumped from underground, and if the needs of the development of Barbuda have to be met, a proper and constant supply of electricity will have to be provided. This the P.L.M. will do by (a) installing new generators which will be used alternatively (b) supplying skilled maintenance men to work in the plant. The Party will also train Barbudans so that they will eventually be in a position to manage the power house.

## HEALTH

The P.L.M. feels that there should be a resident doctor in Barbuda and not merely a dispenser, and that there should be a small hospital to cater to outpatient services such as maternal and child health care, control environmental sanitation, provide general medical services and to treat illnesses which might require short-term hospitalization. Cases requiring specialist treatment or certain types of surgery should be referred to the hospital in Antigua which should maintain a close link with the small unit in Barbuda. Periodic visits will be made by specialists from all Divisions of the Ministry of Health to assure uniform health practices in Barbuda and Antigua alike.

The P.L.M. pledges to maintain constant transportation and telephone and telecommunications links with Barbuda. The P.L.M. also pledges that it will ensure that the children of Barbuda will receive an education that is equal to that given to the children of Antigua.

Finally a P.L.M. government will investigate whether the phosphates at Two Foot Bay can be

mined in commercial quantities and will look into the possibility of establishing a new village at Spanish Point or any other location that is suitable.

## WITH P.L.M., WE MOVE TOGETHER

### HEALTH

The health and welfare of residents of the State is of prime concern to the P.L.M. We state categorically that there has been no health programme for Antigua. We propose to establish and co-ordinate such a programme along the following lines:—

#### OBJECTIVES

The objectives of our proposed PUBLIC HEALTH PLAN are:—

- (a) To promote health.
- (b) To prevent disease.
- (c) To prolong life through organised community effort.

The P.L.M. will not wait idly for diseases to strike unnecessarily. We will take positive steps to limit the chances and occurrence of diseases of all sorts.

To achieve these aims, all medical and health services will be streamlined and reorganised in the Ministry of Health under a Director of Health Services. The National Health Plan would consist principally of three divisions; namely, HOSPITAL, CLINICS and ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION. Each of these three divisions will have its own Director who would be under the direct supervision of the Director of Health Services. In addition, a BUREAU OF LABORATORIES situated at the hospital will provide a wide range of diagnostic services to the three divisions within the Ministry of Health.

#### HOSPITAL DIVISION

We will identify the role of a HOSPITAL in the community. The hospital administered under a P.L.M. government will provide SPECIALIST services on all medical problems, and will serve as a centre for consultation, teaching (of nurses) and handling cases referred by Doctors and the Clinics. The hospital will be equipped with PERSONNEL and EQUIPMENT to conform with modern facilities for providing good care in CURING illnesses. We support the idea of a Director of the hospital and a Hospital Council, made up of professionals, to give advice and make recommendations on hospital policies.

#### CLINIC DIVISION

We will also set up fully equipped clinics in strategic areas on the island to provide outpatient medical and dental care. To provide such services, we will engage general medical practitioners and

Dentists to Staff the clinics on a half day basis. In addition, fully-trained nurses as well as student nurses will be available all day at each clinic.

But a clinic is not only a building and a place where you can see a Doctor, Dentist and/or a Nurse occasionally. All the clinics will be co-ordinated under a Director who will be responsible for a programme of MASS PREVENTATIVE MEDICINE by providing immunizations against diseases such as small pox, measles, whooping cough, diphtheria, tetanus, polio etc., as well as case findings and treatment of such diseases as TB and VD. The P.L.M. recognizes that "an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure" and that good preventative measures are not only less expensive to government but good for our people and for tourism.

The clinics will provide such OUTPATIENT CARE, as maternal and child health, and general medical care not requiring hospitalization. The clinic programme will insist that a constant watch be kept to prevent the spread of diseases and to contain any outbreaks of epidemics that might arise. Dental care of all types will be provided. A regular programme of supervision of school children's health will be undertaken. For example, a nurse will visit schools to promote health education and to refer children to their family doctors or clinics if a health problem presents itself. The CLINIC DIVISION will also be responsible for an island-wide health education programme using films, lecturers, discussions, demonstrations etc. If we want to industrialize, industrial health services and liaison with industry must exist. This will be a responsibility of the CLINIC DIVISION. Nutrition would be emphasized in the schools. An adult education programme in health promotion, birth control and nutrition would be instituted.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION DIVISION

Consider what facilities we now have for refuse disposal, sewage disposal, nuisances and health hazards, milk sanitation, meat hygiene, insect and rodent control, inspection and licensing of food establishments, monitoring of water supplies for cleanliness and usefulness. These services are either poorly administered or non-existent. Our SANITATION DIVISION would be developed in such a way that it would be aware of and exert all its energies to making the environment of all Antiguans more liveable and as free as possible from all health and industrial hazards.

Firstly, we would mobilise our efforts under a Director of Sanitation Services who should be an Engineer with Public Health Training. We would get rid of the "night soil" carts and consider modern methods of refuse and sewage disposal. Modern garbage vehicles would be acquired for garbage collection and disposal. No longer will the people of Antigua have to wait for weeks for their garbage to be picked up—because we recognise that this delay is dangerous to health.

This Division would also inspect milk. Keep in mind that in our Agricultural programme we pro-

pose to reorientate the Laboratory at Dunbars to do simple qualitative tests on agricultural products. This division would ensure that every ounce of milk we and our children drink is wholesome.

Meat inspection would be broadened to include the inspection of local and imported meats to ensure wholesomeness.

Food hygiene would be strengthened. This division would inspect and license all food handling establishments such as hotels, restaurants, food vendors, refrigeration plants used for food storage and ice-making, beverage manufacturing, and groceries etc.

If our people are to remain healthy, we must control insects and rodents. A division that is aware of the hazards of these pests to health, a division adequately staffed and equipped, will be a great benefit to Antigua. The P.L.M. will create such a division.

### **BUREAU OF LABORATORIES**

The P.L.M. promises to provide adequate laboratory services by the Bureau of Laboratories to meet the diagnostic and consultative needs of the Hospital Division, the Clinic Division, and the Environmental Sanitation Division. Again, good staffing, good equipment and an awareness of the importance of the role of good laboratory services in providing better medical care to the community are all urgently required. This is what the P.L.M. promises.

### **STATISTICS**

We will ensure that adequate health statistics are collated. Very often, we could get outside help on our medical and health problems but enough information has not been collected on which the outside experts can base their assistance. With a good health programme, the statistical service will identify health problems so that they can be dealt with adequately. Such statistics will be the responsibility of the Director of Health Services at his centralised location.

### **DRUGS**

The public will be protected from useless and dangerous drugs. Drugs will be classified as NON-PRESCRIPTION and PRESCRIPTION DRUGS. The price of drugs will be monitored and controlled if necessary.

### **AMBULANCE SERVICE**

We will get modern properly equipped vehicles. Ambulances will be available at the shortest notice possible. We propose to provide reliable ambulance service by joint participation of the Division of Clinics, and the Departments of Police and/or Fire. Since Police Stations will more or less be in the vicinity of the clinics, a 24-hour answering service could be provided for the prompt securing of ambulance services. We will encourage the participation in this and similar services by voluntary bodies such as the Red Cross, St. John's Ambulance Brigade etc.

### **EMERGENCY FACILITIES AT AIRPORT**

Adequate medical facilities and equipment should be available at the airport in the event of any mishap. All government personnel especially those employed in the Ministry of Health and all airport personnel should be given training in basic emergency techniques. We are aware of the potential catastrophic problems that could arise. We believe Antiguans will co-operate in any plan to make Antigua the "talk of the world" for its emergency facilities in particular and its health facilities in general.

### **VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS**

We further believe that voluntary organisations such as Red Cross etc. will gladly help in any health programme even in supplying reading materials, films etc. The P.L.M. looks forward to co-operation with people or new organisations who are willing to help make things better for the sick and needy.

### **OVERLAP**

In some instances, the Ministry of Health will share functions with say, the Department of Public Works or the Department of Agriculture. We will streamline these functions by preventing unnecessary duplications or conflicts. For instance, if the Public Works Department is to make drains, they will consult with the Division of Environmental Sanitation to ensure that no health hazard will result. If the Department of Agriculture is to use insecticides on its food crops, the insecticides will have to be approved by the Division of Environmental Sanitation as it pertains to health. The P.L.M. intends to offer a sound preventative dental programme which would include a plan for fluoridation of pipe borne water. The feasibility of such a plan would be studied jointly by the Ministry of Health and the Public Works Department. If your right hand knows what your left hand is doing (through the brain which is the thinking and planning agent), they can be co-ordinated to prevent sickness and diseases.

### **CONCLUSION**

In brief, we recognize ALL the ways in which our health has been neglected. God and Good luck have been on our side. We salute our valiant physicians, nurses, dentists etc. who have continued to work in the present system despite such adversity. But it is Government's duty to provide the facilities to train specialists so as to ensure that residents of the State are healthy and are protected from possible dangerous germs and hazards in our every day environment.

The P.L.M.'s programme intends to cover all the loopholes AND TO PROVIDE AN EXCELLENT HEALTH SERVICE.

A HEALTHIER ANTIGUA WITH P.L.M.

## RECREATION AND THE ARTS

The P.L.M. feels that in any civilized community, the arts and things of a cultural nature must occupy a central place. They are also aware that years of government indifference and neglect have not given many Antiguans the opportunity to develop their talents as musicians, actors, painters, sculptors, poets, writers etc. The P.L.M., while realizing that a problem of this kind calls for a long term solution, will make a proper survey of the priorities and requirements that will be necessary if a comprehensive plan for the development of the Arts is to be drawn up.

It is absolutely necessary that any educational plan for the country must include a programme aimed at both young and old that will banish the idea that has been cultivated by many people over the years, that the best in music, painting, sculpture and literature are beyond their reach.

### COMMUNITY CENTRES

The Party feels that the present Community Centre has outlived its usefulness and that a modern building should be erected to replace it. This building should have a well-built and properly equipped stage and lighting facilities and permanent seating arrangements. It should be able to accommodate National Conventions of Labour Unions or Political Parties, Churches or any other bodies in this State and from abroad and should be able to provide accommodation for concerts or festivals or competitions that are staged indoors. This building should also have facilities to meet the demands of smaller numbers that may come together for lectures, club meetings etc.

Community Centres are also necessary in the villages, as the Party feels that the facilities found in village schools which are used as substitutes for community centres in these areas are usually inadequate.

### ARTS FESTIVAL

The P.L.M. is of the opinion that if the right amenities are provided in the towns and villages that the artistic talents of the inhabitants of the whole island will blossom forth. The teaching of music and drama in our schools ought to lay the foundation for a projected Music and Arts Festival which the Party feels will eventually become an annual feature. This Festival, the P.L.M. visualizes as being the culminating point of the year's activities by our artists whose talents will be displayed to Antiguans and visitors alike. It is also felt that if artists, dancers, musicians, steelbands, drummers, singers, choral groups, actors—from other West Indian islands are invited to take part, it could become an important annual event. And bearing in mind the emphasis that will be laid on the expansion of the Tourist Industry, the Festival, if held in December could possibly become a tourist attraction of some significance.

The teaching of music in the schools will also provide an ever present source from which enter-

tainers can be drawn, for entertainment of a high standard is vitally necessary if a successful Tourist Industry is to be maintained.

### NATIONAL PARKS AND HISTORIC PLACES

A general appreciation and awareness of beauty can be developed if the government took the lead in establishing and maintaining National Parks that are tastefully landscaped and planted with ornamental trees, shade trees and flowering shrubs. The P.L.M. feels that a significant start can be made with developing the Botanical Gardens and the area surrounding it into one of many parks that will be established.

The Party intends to develop and landscape selected sites on public lands adjoining beaches so that citizens of this State can relax in beautiful surroundings with proper showering, changing, and car parking facilities.

Government can also, by encouraging and promoting high standards in design and architecture, and in its general approach to the planning of the extension of St. John's and the villages preserve the beauty of the countryside.

The P.L.M. feels that every effort should be made to maintain those buildings, great houses on Estates, and places that are connected with the history and legends of Antigua and that these places should not be sold to private owners.

### SPORTS

The government has never had a programme to promote sports in the State of Antigua. The standard of National sports, and our defeat in Caribbean and international games are an indication that more needs to be done to promote games and sports.

The P.L.M. is fully aware of the role that sports plays in the life of a community and of the advertisement and goodwill that can be generated when our teams go abroad for competition. The P.L.M. intends to give official recognition to the role that sports ought to play in the life of the community by spending considerably more money on the development of sports in the State and by providing:—

- (1) Coaches in the schools and encouraging the schools to conduct interschool competitions, and participate in National competitions.
- (2) Equipment and playground facilities in the schools, and in the city and villages throughout the State.
- (3) Coaches on a National level in at least Football and Cricket.
- (4) A division of a Ministry that will look after the development of sport in the State and set up a National Sports Council that will advise the government and give leadership and guidance to clubs and societies in this field.
- (5) Information and advice that will encourage the formation of clubs and societies.

The Party is aware that indulgence in sport on

a large scale can help to produce a nation that is physically fit and healthy and it is our intention to provide proper financial aid to the standard games of Athletics, Cricket and Football. It is also our intention to encourage participation in other games like hockey, netball and swimming and any other areas of sporting activity that clubs or societies want to enter.

#### **NATIONAL STADIUM AND HORSE RACING**

The P.L.M. recognizes that if Antigua is to lay claim to being a progressive country and be host to visiting teams; and if it is to develop as a flourishing modern tourist centre, we must have a proper place in which to stage National Events. In the long term therefore, it is the aim of the P.L.M. to erect a National Stadium equipped with swimming pool etc., in which Football and Cricket tournaments and international athletic and other meets can be held. This would provide better accommodation and facilities than the hopelessly inadequate Antigua Recreation Grounds. The P.L.M. also feels that competitive swimming and sailing, boating and other water sports should be more popular than they are at present, and will make every effort to encourage Antiguans to make more use of the lovely beaches and the sea around us. The Party is also conscious of the fact that government participation will be necessary if horse racing (one of the big tourist attractions) is to be developed to the extent where it is of Local, West Indian or international importance. A proper race-track will also be necessary. In addition to this, aid of some kind will have to be given to establish horse-breeding on a firm basis.

Our aim is to encourage sports in the schools and among the adult population, for we consider participation in games for pleasure or competition

to be vital not only for health, but also in developing a spirit of sportsmanship, building character and acquiring the ability to work along with other people.

**SOCK IT TO THEM, VOTE P.L.M.**

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#### **CONCLUSION**

The time has come! Every Antiguan has a choice and it is a choice that transcends the narrow confines occupied by political Parties and personalities. The choice is concerned with a more fundamental issue—the quality and tone of life that every inhabitant of this State will enjoy during the next five years.

The Bird government has nothing new to offer. The P.L.M. offers Antiguans a new way of life and a new opportunity to begin a new partnership between the government and the people. We offer, a fair deal at work, improved agriculture, training for better jobs, better housing, better education, better health and medical services, and an opportunity for all to become co-workers and shareholders in our prosperity. The alternative is a way of life that breeds victimization and suspicion, and a way of life in which nobody ever trusts or believes anything any member of the government says and promises.

We know that the task ahead is not easy. We have no delusions about this, but we are confident that if Antigua and Antiguans are to overcome the handicaps created by a stagnant government after 25 years in power, we must cooperate and strive to rebuild our country, so that when these hurdles shall have been overcome, we shall face  
**A BRIGHTER TOMORROW.**

*A P.L.M. Government Means  
A Better Tomorrow for All Antiguans*



A Nation that cannot feed itself cannot survive.  
P. L. M. will elevate agriculture to its proper  
place by providing:

*Better Land Utilization*

*More Financial Aid*

*Crop Diversification*

*Improved Breeds of Animals*

*Improved Fisheries*

*Expert Technical Advice*

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ANTIGUA  
NEEDS A  
NEW IMAGE  
DYNAMISM  
and  
KNOW - HOW  
  
**P.L.M.**  
**OFFERS ALL OF THEM**

A P.L.M. government means:—

*Better Education*

*Better Housing*

*More Jobs*

*Better Opportunities*

*Meaningful Social Security*

*Better Health Service*